Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 02239 311241Z

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 302105Z AUG 76 FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9639 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL PORT OF SPAIN 2239

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ, TDD

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO

REF: STATE 211970

1. GOVERNOR HERNANDEZ COLON'S EXCELLENT LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS WAS DISPATCHED BY AIRMAIL TO PORT OF SPAIN. WE RECEIVED A TELEXED COPY AFTERNOON AUGUST 26 WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO CONVEY IT TO THE PRIME MINISTER. I WAS UNABLE TO DO SO BECAUSE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S ABSENCE FROM PORT OF SPAIN RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION. HE ASKED ME TO DELIVER IT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHO WAS ALSO OUT OF POCKET ELECTIONEERING. HIS OFFICE REQUESTED ME TO DELIVER THE LETTER TO EUSTACE SEIGNORET, PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, WHICH WAS ACCOMPLISHED TODAY. SEIGNORET AGREED TO INFORM ME WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER RECEIVED THE LETTER.

2. IN THE MEANTIME, SATURDAY EVENING, AUGUST 28, AT THE COAST GUARD COMMISSIONING CEREMONIES I ENCOUNTERED SEIGNORET. HE ADVISED ME THAT CABINET HAD MET THURSDAY AND DECIDED TO ABSTAIN ON THE PUERTO RICAN SITUATION. IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT CABINET MEETING OCCURRED PRIOR TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT O 02239 311241Z

RECEIPT OF THE GOVERNOR'S LETTER.

3. I HAVE ASKED FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON WEDNESDAY, SINCE TOMORROW IS TRINIDAD INDEPENDENCE DAY AND IS A NATIONAL HOLIDAY, TO FURTHER DISCUSS TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S POSITION SUBSEQUENT TO THE RECEIPT OF THE LETTER.

4. THOUGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN AS TO WHETHER IT WOULD HELP MATTERS IF GOVERNOR COLON PHONED PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS IF THE LETTER FAILS TO CHANGE THE PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWPOINT. FAY

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE

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